

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 USUN N 01825 01 OF 02 292355Z

65

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 EB-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7177

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 1825

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC, SHUM, SGEN

SUBJ: 60TH ECOSOC--DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT DELIVERED BY ISRAELI AMB HERZOG DURING APRIL 29 ECOSOC DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEM 3, DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM. SUMMARY OF STATEMENTS MADE BY OTHER DELS, INCLUDING THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, WILL BE FORWARDED BY SEPTEL.

MAY I THANK YOU FOR YOUR COURTESY IN ALLOWING ME TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL AND MAY I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THE HIGHEST REGARDS OF MY DELEGATION TO YOU PERSONALLY, BOTH IN RESPECT OF YOUR OUTSTANDING GUALITIES AND OF THE MANNER IN WHICH YOU ARE CONDUCTING THE DELIBERATIONS OF THIS COUNCIL. THEY ARE IN THE BEST TRADITIONS OF YOUR COUNTRY AND ITS LEADERS.

MR. PRESIDENT, WHEN THE THIRD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THE PROGRAM FOR THE DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION TO THE 28TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ME DELEGATION, TOGETHER WITH OTHERS, SUPPORTED IT FIRMLY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 USUN N 01825 01 OF 02 292355Z

OUR SUPPORT FOR THE DECADE WAS NOT ONLY BORN OUT OF

ABHORRENCE FOR THE MERE NOTION OF DISCRIMINATION BASED
ON RACE, COLOR OR RELIGION, BUT MORE SO DUE TO THE FACT
THAT FOR CENTURIES THE JEWISH PEOPLE HAS BEEN THE CLASSICAL
VICTIM OF RACISM IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD -- THEIR
JEWISHNESS CONSTITUTING THEIR ONLY CRIME. AND IN THAT RESPECT
THE MONTH OF APRIL IS OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE, FOR ON THE
27TH DAY OF THE HEBREW MONTH OF NISSAN, THIS WEEK INDEED,
THE JEWISH PEOPLE HONOR THE SIX MILLION JEWS MURDERED BY THE
NAZIS AND THE FALLEN HEROES OF THE WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING.
IT WAS TO PREVENT A RECURRANCE OF SUCH TRAGIC EVENTS, AND
INDEED TO WORK FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS THE
WORLD OVER, THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ORIGINALLY CALLED FOR
A DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.

IN CONFORMITY WITH PARAGRAPH 18 OF RESOLUTION 3057 (XXVIII)
THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL REPLIED TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE
CIRCULATED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL. IN OUR REPLY WE STATED
QUITE FRANKLY THAT IN THE CASE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL
RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE SENSE USED IN
INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION DO NOT EXIST. AS A DEMOCRACY AND
HAVING REGARD TO ITS DIVERSE ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS AND
LINGUISTIC GROUPINGS, THE STATE OF ISRAEL HAS FROM ITS
VERY INCEPTION BEEN GUIDED BY THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM,
JUSTICE AND PEACE, ENSURING AS NEARLY AS POSSIBLE
EQUALITY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS FOR ALL ITS
INHABITANTS, PERSONAL AND NATIONAL. IN THE LIGHT OF THE
SORRY COURSE OF JEWISH HISTORY, THE MAINTENANCE OF THE DIGNITY
OF MAN IS AXIOMATIC IN THE LIFE OF THE STATE AND, AS
PART THEREOF, ISRAEL HAS STRIVEN TOWARDS THE ELIMINATION
OF ALL DISTINCTIONS, EXCLUSIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND PREFERENCES
FOUNDED ON RACE, COLOR OR NATIONAL OR ETHNIC ORIGIN WHICH
HAVE THE PURPOSE OF EFFECT OF NULLIFYING THE EQUAL
ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE VERY MANY INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL
DIFFICULTIES AND OBSTACLES WHICH HAVE STOOD IN THE WAY, IT
MAY BE SAID WITH CONSIDERABLE ASSURANCE THAT THE RECORD OF
ISRAEL IS GOOD ON THIS SCORE.

MR. PRESIDENT, ISRAEL WAS EAGER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DECADE
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PAGE 03 USUN N 01825 01 OF 02 292355Z

TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION FOR IT IS
ONLY COMMON SENSE THAT THOSE MOST DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN
HISTORY SHOULD SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES AND JOIN THE EFFORTS
TO SPREAD UNDERSTANDING AND HARMONY THROUGHOUT THIS WORLD.

HOWEVER, ARAB EXTREMISTS AND RACISTS HAVE DECIDED THAT THEY,
AND ONLY THEY, ARE QUALIFIED TO COMBAT RACISM AND THAT THE
PARTICIPATION OF THE WESTERN COUNTRIES AND ISRAEL IS OF NO

CONSEQUENCE FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE DECADE. THEY, WHO LAUNCHED A WAR OF GENOCIDE AGAINST THE KURDISH PEOPLE, THEY WHO MASSACRED OVER HALF A MILLION BLACKS IN AFRICA, THEY WHO HOLD A TINY JEWISH COMMUNITY HOSTAGE TO THEIR POLITICS OF HATRED, THEY, WHO STATE THAT FROM THE ATLANTIC OCEAN TO THE PERSIAN GULF WHICH THEY CALL THE ARAB GULF ONLY ARAB PRESENCE IS ALLOWED, THEY AND ONLY THEY ARE THE WORLD AUTHORITY ON HOW TO RID THIS GLOBE OF RACISM.

THE EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE DURING THE DEBATE ON THE DECADE AT THE LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY ARE STILL FRESH IN EVERYONE'S MIND AND I NEED NOT RECALL THEM.

MR. PRESIDENT, NOVEMBER 10, 1975 WILL LIVE IN INFAMY IN THE HISTORY OF OUR PEOPLE, AND IN THE HISTORY OF FREE AND CIVILIZED NATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE ARABS BY FORCING THE U.N. TO EQUATE ZIONISM WITH RACISM HAVE BROUGHT DISCREDIT TO THE ORGANIZATION AND CAUSED A WORLD REVULSION. THUS, WHILE WE SUPPORTED ALL MOVES TO ELIMINATE RACISM IN THE WORLD, AND THERE ARE NO BETTER WITNESSES TO THIS FACT THAN OUR AFRICAN BROTHERS --WITH MANY OF WHOSE COUNTRIES TO THIS DAY, I AM PROUD TO SAY, WE ARE CONTINUING OUT DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION, WE MUST REGRETFULLY SPEAK AGAINST A RESOLUTION ON THIS SUBJECT.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THIS IRRELEVANT PARTISAN POLITICAL ISSUE TO THE RESOLUTION ON THE DECADE OF ACTION OBLIGES US, REGRETFULLY, TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE PROGRAM AS LONG AS THAT OBSCENE ACT IS IN ANY WAY, HOWEVER REMOTELY, ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROGRAM. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE CALL UPON THIS BODY TO REJECT THE PROGRAM UNTIL IT HAS BEEN CLEANSED OF AN ELEMENT INSPIRED BY RACISTS AND ANTI-SEMITES. WE TRUST THAT NO SUPPORT WILL BE AFFORDED TO THIS PROGRAM
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 USUN N 01825 01 OF 02 292355Z

UNTIL THAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED.

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01825 02 OF 02 300020Z

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INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 1825

BEFORE I CLOSE MY STATEMENT, LET ME REFER FOR A MOMENT TO THE REMARKS MADE BY CERTAIN DELEGATES WITH REFERENCE TO VISITS MADE TO ISRAEL BY SOUTH AFRICAN LEADERS. I REJECT THEM OUT-OF-HAND. ISRAEL IS A SOVEREIGN COUNTRY AND HAS INVARIABLY REFRAINED FROM COMMENTING ON WHOM OTHER COUNTRIES RECEIVE AS VISITORS. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US AND THOSE WHO PURSUE THE PATH OF HYPOCRISY IS THAT IN OUR CASE EVERYTHING IS OPEN FOR ALL TO SEE; WE HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE.

MR. PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER VORSTER'S VISIT BEGAN AS A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY PLACES ON THE OCCASION OF EASTER. I CAN WELL IMAGINE WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE REACTION OF MY ARAB COLLEAGUES IF FREEDOM OF ACCESS TO THE HOLY PLACES WOULD HAVE BEEN DENIED TO A PILGRIM MERELY BECAUSE OF HIS POLITICAL VIEWS. IN FACT, MILLIONS OF VISITORS FROM ABROAD AND HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS FROM THE ARAB COUNTRIES HAVE VISITED THE HOLY PLACES IN ISRAEL. I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY HERE TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE LEADERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THOSE WHO HAVE EXPRESSED SUCH HOSTILE VIEWS TOWARDS ISRAEL AND WHO ENGAGE IN THIS ENDLESS DIATRIBE AGAINST MY COUNTRY, WILL BE WELCOMED IN ISRAEL FOR THIS PURPOSE,

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PAGE 02 USUN N 01825 02 OF 02 300020Z

AND THIS WITHOUT OUR BEING INFLUENCED IN ANY WAY BY THEIR VIEWS ABOUT ISRAEL OR THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF THE MIDDLE EAST.

IF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, OR INDEED OF THE U.N., WISH TO DISCUSS THE WHOLE PROBLEM OF VISITS BY LEADERS OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES, ONE TO THE OTHER, SO BE IT -- BUT LET US NOT BE SELECTIVE ABOUT IT. LET US SET OUT THE WHOLE LIST OF ALL

VISITS BY ALL LEADERS TO ALL COUNTRIES, AND LET US DISCUSS THEM AND ANALYZE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EACH VISIT. BUT DON'T LET US BE SELECTIVE BECAUSE THIS IS DISHONEST.

IF ANY BODY HERE SUGGESTS THAT THE VISIT OF A NATIONAL LEADER AUTOMATICALLY IMPLIES THE ACQUIESCENCE OF THE HOST STATE IN THE POLITICAL, SOCIAL OR ECONOMIC POLICIES OF THE VISITOR, THEN I FEAR WE MAY ALL FIND OURSELVES IN A RATHER AWKWARD, EMBARRASSING AND UNTENABLE SITUATION -- ALL OF US WITHOUT ANY EXCEPTION.

IF YOU ARE SUGGESTING THAT THE VISIT OF MR. VORSTER AND HIS MINISTERS MUST BE INTERPRETED AS AN ENDORSEMENT OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES, THEN THIS CONCLUSION SURELY APPLIES TO ALL COUNTRIES WHERE SUCH VISITS HAVE TAKEN PLACE. YOU CANNOT BE SELECTIVE IN THIS MATTER, AND IF THESE ARE YOUR VIEWS, THEN SAY SO ABOUT ALL THE COUNTRIES WHERE SUCH VISITS HAVE TAKEN PLACE. YOU CANNOT BE SELECTIVE IN THIS MATTER, AND IF THESE ARE YOUR VIEWS, THEN SAY SO ABOUT ALL THE COUNTRIES AND CONTINENTS INVOLVED AND TAKE THE CONSEQUENCES, BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE IMPLYING.

WHAT IS BETTER, I ASK THE DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES; THE PROCESS OF DIALOGUE, OF TALKING, OF ENDEAVORING TO INFLUENCE AND CONVINCE, SUCH AS HAS BEEN ADOPTED IN MOST CASES OF CONFLICT AROUND THE WORLD, AS WITNESS THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION, INDIAN AND PAKISTAN, CHINA AND THE U.S., THE EAST AND WEST GERMANIES, SOME OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT AND SOUTH AFRICA; OR THE POLITICALLY IMMATURE AND OBSTINATE ATTITUDE OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES WHO ARE UNWILLING TO MEET ISRAEL REPRESENTATIVES, WHO ARE UNWILLING TO TRY TO INFLUENCE BY DIALOGUE, AND WHO ARE -- I BELIEVE -- FEARFUL OF BEING UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 USUN N 01825 02 OF 02 300020Z

INFLUENCED BY DIALOGUE. WHICH SYSTEM IS BETTER --AN OPEN MAN-TO-MAN SYSTEM, BASED UPON MUTUAL DIGNITY, OR THE OSTRICH-LIKE SYSTEM OF RUNNING AWAY FROM PROBLEMS? THIS IS BASICALLY THE ISSUE. IN A WORLD THAT DOES NOT TALK, THERE WILL BE STRIFE. IN A WORLD OF DIALOGUE, THERE CAN BE UNDERSTANDING. WITHOUT DIALOGUE, THERE CAN BE NO UNDERSTANDING. AND WITHOUT COURAGE, SUCH HAS BEEN SHOWN BY LEADERS ON ALL SIDES OF THE VARIOUS CONFLICTS WHICH I HAVE MENTIONED ABOVE, THERE CAN BE NO DIALOGUE.

YES, MR. PRESIDENT, THERE IS NO POINT IN DISCUSSING ONLY ONE SMALL ASPECT OF A PROBLEM. LET US ABANDON THIS EXERCISE IN SELECTIVE ACCUSATIONS AND PRESENT ALL THE FACTS TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION.

ISRAEL'S POSITION ON RACIAL DISCRIMINATION HAS BEEN CLARIFIED TIME AND AGAIN, AND DOES NOT HAVE TO BE RESTATED. WE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO BROUGHT TO THE WORLD THE CONCEPT THAT GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE. WE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO BROUGHT TO THE WORLD THE IDEAL THAT "THOU SHALT LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF." WE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO ANNOUNCED TO THE WORLD, "AND THOU SHALT PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGHOUT THE LAND, UNTO ALL THE INHABITANTS THEREOF," A PROCLAMATION ENGRAVED ON THE LIBERTY BELL OF THE U.S. WE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO BROUGHT THE PRINCIPLE TO THE WORLD THAT, "ONE LAW SHALL BE TO HIM THAT IS HOMEBORN, AND UNTO THE STRANGER THAT SOJOURNETH AMONG YOU" WE ARE THE PEOPLE WHOSE LEADER, THEODOR HERZL, FOUNDER OF MODERN ZIONISM, WROTE IN HIS BOOK ALT-NEULAND IN 1902:

"THERE IS STILL ONE PROBLEM OF RACIAL MISFORTUNE UNSOLVED. THE DEPTHS OF THAT PROBLEM ONLY A JEW CAN COMPREHEND. I REFER TO THE PROBLEM OF THE AFRICANS. JUST CALL TO MIND ALL THOSE TERRIBLE EPISODES OF THE SLAVE TRADE, OF HUMAN BEINGS WHO MERELY BECAUSE THEY WERE BLACK WERE STOLEN LIKE CATTLE, TAKEN PRISONERS, CAPTURED AND SOLD. THEIR CHILDREN GREW UP IN STRANGE LANDS, THE OBJECTS OF CONTEMPT AND HOSTILITY BECAUSE THEIR COMPLEXIONS WERE DIFFERENT. I AM NOT ASHAMED TO SAY ... THAT ONCE I HAVE WITNESSED THE REDEMPTION OF ISRAEL, MY PEOPLE, I WISH TO ASSIST IN THE REDEMPTION OF THE BLACK PEOPLE."

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PAGE 04 USUN N 01825 02 OF 02 300020Z

WE ARE A MULTI-RACIAL PEOPLE OF ALL COLORS, HUES, AND BACKGROUNDS, WHOSE RELIGION CAN BE FREELY ADOPTED BY ALL, REGARDLESS OF THEIR RACE, COLOR OR SEX. WE ARE A PEOPLE, WHO DESPITE BITTER HATE AND INTRANSIGENCE SURROUNDING US, CREATED AN ADMINISTRATION IN THE TERRITORIES CONTROLLED BY US SINCE 1967 -- AND WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO BE ADMINISTERED BY US IN ANTICIPATION OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS -- IN WHICH THE ARAB INHABITANTS WERE ABLE TO CONDUCT FREE ELECTIONS -- THE ONLY PLACE IN THE WHOLE ARAB WORLD -- INCLUDING FOR THE FIRST TIME THE ENFRANCHISEMENT OF WOMEN, AND THIS DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT WAS CLEAR THAT NOT ALL THE RESULTS WOULD BE POLITICALLY CONVENIENT FOR US.

IT LIES NOT IN THE MOUTHS OF THOSE RACIST REGIMES AND DESPOTISMS, WHICH ENGAGE IN THEIR INTERMINABLE DIATRIBE AGAINST ISRAEL IN THIS FORUM, SO MUCH AS TO MENTION THE WORD "FREEDOM." IT IS BEYOND THEM -- THEY WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND ITS MEANING*.

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